WRITTEN ANSWERSTO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Probes by CBI

1698. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation is being assigned probes both by the Centre and the States, beyond its capacity;

(b) whether the CBI's prior consent to accept the probe assignment is normally sought by the Centre and States; and

(c) whether the CBI is equipped to handle a large number of cases without commensurate manpower strength and upgradation of its investigative skills demanded by highly sophisticated economic offences?

THE MINISTER OF STAE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) derives its legal powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, which primarily applies to the Union Territories, the services of the CBI are available to all the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government who can refer any matter considered serious enough to warrant a CBI probe to it wherefrom the CBI is to decide whether or not to inquire into or investigate the matter. As regards the CBI's work in the States, prior consent of the State concerned is required to extend the jurisdiction and powers of the CBI. In such cases, and on requests of State Governments, the CBI is always asked to comment on the feasibility of undertaking the investigation.

(c) CBI has sufficient sanctioned strength and expertise to deal with the magnitude of its investigative work.